Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: ECOSOC EGEN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: ITEM 9 REPORT OF UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: PARIS 20200

1. IN THE ECOSOC SPECIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON JULY 13, UNCTAD SYG COREA GAVE AN HOUR-LONG ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF UNCTAD IV ALONG LINES REPORTED IN THE REFTEL. IN A GENERALLY UPBEAT REVIEW, COREA (A) PRONOUNCED HIMSELF PLEASED, ON BALANCE, WITH THE OUTCOME ON COMMODITIES, TECHNOLOGYR AND SEVERAL OTHER AREAS INCLUDING UNCTAD INSTITUTIONAL REFORM; (B) INDICATED HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITHRESOLUTION ON DEBT AND THE "NON-RESULTS" ON OTHER MONETARY ISSUES; AND (C) EMPHASIZED THAT THE FOLLOW-UP NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE DETERMINING FOR THE ULTIMATE QUESTION OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE. WHILE WE MIGHT TAKE EXCEPTION TO HIS PRESENTATION ON SOME POINTS (E.G., THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE EXPECTS THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO ORCHESTRATE THE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS), HIS OVERALL ASSESSMENT SEEMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM OR OWN IN TONE AS WELL

AS ON MANY SPECIFIC POINTS. HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR "CONVERGENCE" BETWEEN CIEC AND UNCTAD FOLLOW-UP.

2. WHILE SEVERAL LDC DELEGATIONS THANKED COREA FOR HIS PRESENTATION (AS DID CANADA AND THE UK), NIGERIA, JAMAICA, AND PAKISTAN ALL CRITICIZED IT AS BEING FAR TOO OPTIMISTIC. THE PAKISTANI REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE FORCEFULLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY UNCTAD IV AS HAVING PRODUCED MINIMAL RESULTS AND HAVING BEEN A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE LDC'S. COMMENT: THIS APPEARDD TO BE PART OF THE CONTINUING PAKISTAN EFFORT, BEGUN AT ABIDJAN, TO PORTRAY THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AS STAGNANT AND DEVOID OF PRACTICAL RESULTS, THEREBY JUSTIFYING BHUTO'S CALL FOR A G-77 SUMMIT MEETING. END COMMENT.DALE

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